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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
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DEPARTMENT FOR EUR/WE, EUR/SOV, ARA/AND, L/LEI
JUSTICE FOR RYAN
E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: OPRC, PGOV, FR
SUBJECT: **KLAUS BARBIE** UPDATE
REF: SNIDER/CHAVEAS TELCON 7/7/83
1. COMMUNIST PARTY PUBLIC RELATIONS EXERCISE IN LYON

A DELEGATION FROM THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE FRENCH
COMMUNIST PARTY (PCF) MET JULY 6 IN LYON WITH AN AIDE
IN THE LYON PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE, GAVE A PRESS CONFERENCE
AND LAID A WREATH AT A RESISTANCE MEMORIAL. THE DELEGA-
TION INCLUDED PCF POLITICAL BUREAU MEMBER MIREILLE BER-
TRAND, PCF SENATOR AND CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER JEAN
GARCIA, PCF DEPUTY THEO VIAL-MASSAT, LYON'S ONLY COMMUNIST
MUNICIPAL COUNCILLOR RENE CHEVALLIER AND THREE LAWYERS.

STATE DEPT. DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW
☒ Retain class'n
☒ Declassify
Change/classify to _____
with concurrence of _____
after _____
EO 12958, 25X
IPS/CR/IR by SD Date 8/30/07

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2. THE PCF GROUP CALLED FOR RIGOROUS PROSECUTION OF THE BARBIE CASE AND STATED BARBIE SHOULD BE TRIED NOT ONLY FOR CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY BUT ALSO FOR A WIDE ASSORTMENT OF WAR CRIMES (FOR WHICH HE HAS ALREADY BEEN TRIED AND FOR WHICH THE TWENTY-YEAR STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS HAS PASSED). BARBIE, THE LAWYERS SAY, IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEPORTATION OF NEARLY 8,000 PERSONS, THE MURDER OF 4,300 JEWS AND THE EXECUTION OF 42 RESISTANCE LEADERS. STRESSING THE CENTRAL ROLE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY IN FRENCH WWII RESISTANCE, THE PCF DELEGATION PROVIDED A FORUM FOR TESTIMONIALS FROM ALLEGED BARBIE VICTIMS AND FAMILY MEMBERS OF VICTIMS.

3. ACCORDING TO THE PARIS PRESS, THE PCF DELEGATION WAS ALSO TOLD BY THE PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE THAT THE BARBIE INVESTIGATION WAS BEING CONDUCTED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE BUT THAT THE CURRENT CASE LOAD MADE FOR SLOW GOING. THE PCF SENATOR AND DEPUTY IN THE DELEGATION REPORTEDLY PLAN TO INTERVENE WITH MINISTER OF JUSTICE BADINTER TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL MEANS TO THE LYON PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE TO ACCELERATE THE INVESTIGATION. THE LAWYERS IN THE DELEGATION CRITICIZED RECENT EFFORTS BY BARBIE'S DEFENSE TO HAVE HIM FREED BECAUSE OF PROCEDURAL IRREGULARITIES, SAYING THAT IF RELEASE ON THESE GROUNDS WAS ALLOWED, THE PRECEDENT WOULD RAPIDLY EMPTY FRENCH PRISONS.

4. COMMENT: THE PCF ACTIVITIES IN LYON ARE BASICALLY A PUBLIC RELATIONS STUNT DESIGNED TO UNDERLINE THE ASSOCIATION OF FRENCH COMMUNISTS WITH THE RESISTANCE AND TO ASSOCIATE THE PCF WITH THE SPEEDY RESOLUTION OF THE BARBIE CASE. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, THERE WAS NO MENTION BY THE DELEGATION OF THE POST-WAR USG ASSOCIATION WITH BARBIE, RECENT US ACCESS REQUESTS, NOR THE PENDING SOVIET REQUEST FOR ACCESS TO BARBIE. COMMUNIST PARTY NEWSPAPER "L'HUMANITE" HAS HAD EXTENSIVE COVERAGE OF PCF DELEGATION ACTIVITIES AND CAN BE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE TO HIGHLIGHT THE BARBIE CASE.

5. VERGES TRIP TO BOLIVIA

IN A JULY 5 RADIO INTERVIEW, BARBIE'S LAWYER JACQUES VERGES INDICATED THAT HE WOULD NOW BE TRAVELING TO BOLIVIA IN AUGUST TO CONTINUE HIS INVESTIGATION OF IMPROPRIETIES SURROUNDING BARBIE'S EXPULSION FROM BOLIVIA TO FRANCE IN FEBRUARY 1983.

6. BOWER BOOK LITTLE NOTED

THE ACCOUNT OF ALLEGED USG ASSISTANCE TO BARBIE AFTER WORLD WAR II AS DETAILED IN THE FORTHCOMING TOM BOWER BOOK HAS SO FAR RECEIVED SCANT PRESS ATTENTION IN PARIS. ONE JULY 6 MID-DAY NEWS PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTED THE REPORT AND CONTAINED AN EXTENSIVE INTERVIEW WITH BBC REPORTER BOWER. THE JULY 6 "HERALD TRIBUNE" CARRIED MAJOR PORTIONS OF "WASHINGTON POST" ADAPTATION OF BOWER BOOK, INCLUDING US-FRENCH EXCHANGES ON EXTRADITION AND CUSTODY OF BARBIE. GALBRAITH

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